



BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

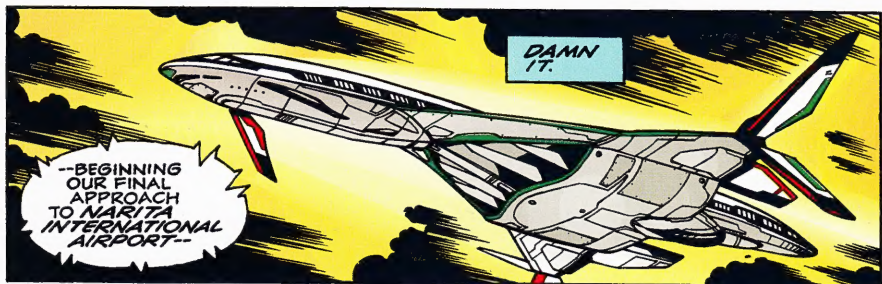
GRAND
MAL

DARK HORSE
COMICS

BUBBLEGUM
CRISIS
1 OF 4

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN





DAMN IT.

--BEGINNING OUR FINAL APPROACH TO NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT--



THANK YOU FOR FLYING JAPAN AIR LINES--

ALMOST MADE IT THROUGH THE FLIGHT.



A SUBSIDIARY OF GENOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION!

SO MUCH FOR MEDICATION.



FIRST, THE SUDDEN EUPHORIC STATE SWEEPS OVER ME.

THAT'S THE REALLY ANNOYING PART, HAVING TO FEEL HAPPY ABOUT THIS...



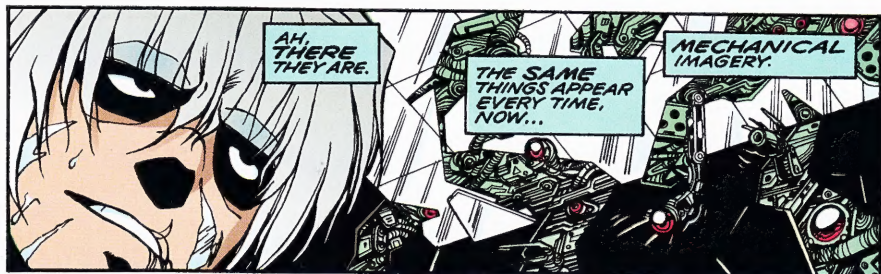
NEXT COME THE CHILLS--

--RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.



ANY-TIME NOW--

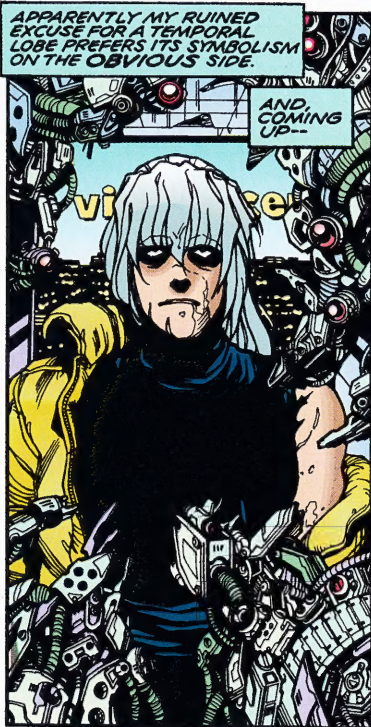
--THE HALLUCINATIONS SHOULD KICK IN.



AH, THERE THEY ARE.

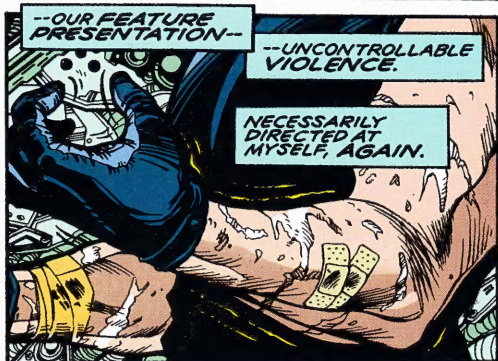
THE SAME THINGS APPEAR EVERY TIME, NOW...

MECHANICAL IMAGERY.



APPARENTLY MY RUINED EXCUSE FOR A TEMPORAL LOBE PREFERS ITS SYMBOLISM ON THE OBVIOUS SIDE.

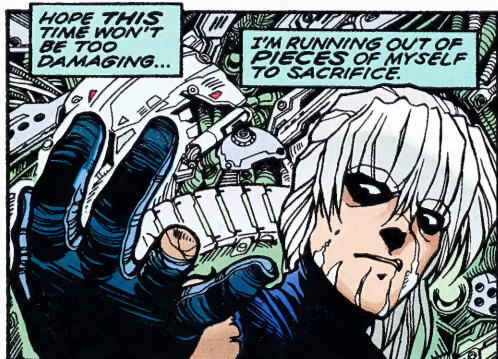
AND COMING UP--



--OUR FEATURE PRESENTATION--

--UNCONTROLLABLE VIOLENCE.

NECESSARILY DIRECTED AT MYSELF, AGAIN.



HOPE THIS TIME WON'T BE TOO DAMAGING...

I'M RUNNING OUT OF PIECES OF MYSELF TO SACRIFICE.



WELL, HERE IT COMES.

WHAT BETTER WAY--

--TO CELEBRATE MY TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO MEGATOKYO--?

A.D. 2031

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"MEGATOKYO!"

"A PROUD PHOENIX
RISING TRIUMPHANT
FROM THE ASHES OF THE
2025 GREAT KANTO
EARTHQUAKE--"

--GREATER TOKYO
BOARD OF TOURISM

"OH, WORLD'S LARGEST
COMPANY TOWN--"

"A CRIPPLED WHORE,
PROSTRATE AT THE FEET
OF MASTER GENOM--"

"YOUR STREETS CHOKED
WITH GENOM'S *GAIJIN*
AND GENOM'S *BOOMERS*--"
--SASANISHIKI AKIRA,
"STREET POET"

"BIG CITY"
--PRISS (retro-
thrash rock singer)

VIDEO
SAMPLE

--INITIAL 7.9
TREMBLOR ONLY
KILLED SAY, EIGHTY
OR NINETY THOUSAND
OUTRIGHT--

--BUT
THESE
FIRES--!!

WE'RE TALKING
SIX FIGURE
CASUALTIES, OR
EVEN SEVEN
FIGURE--

"TOKYO HOLOCAUST
IGNITES DOMESTIC AND
WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC
FIRESTORM--"
--UNIVERSAL MEDIA
NETWEB (BUSINESS)

"--GENOM CORPORATION
HAS EMERGED AS A MAJOR
PLAYER IN THE CHAOTIC
AFTERMATH--"
--BBC BUSINESS UPDATE

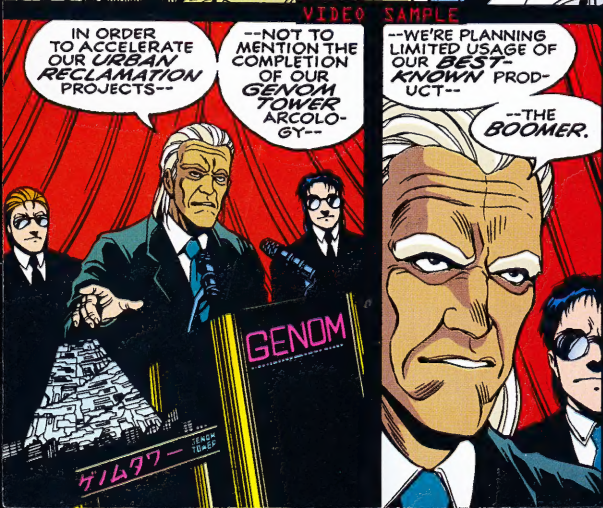
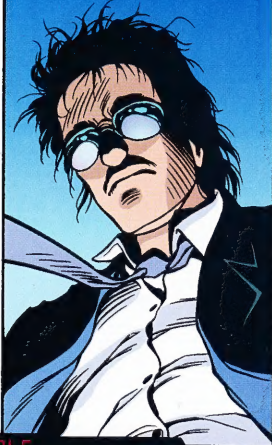


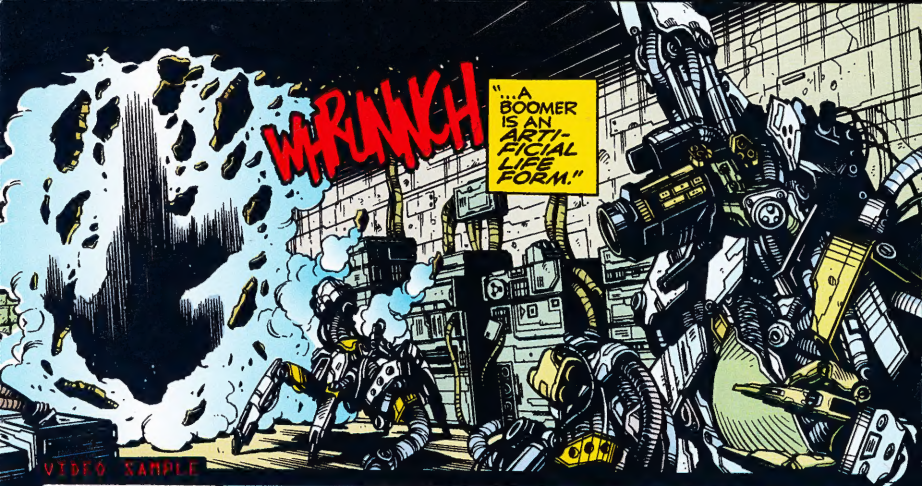
"GENOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SPEARHEADS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT." --BEIJING BUSINESS JOURNAL

"AFTER PREYING ON THE REELING GIANTS OF CORPORATE JAPAN--"

"GENOM TARGETS PREY OVERSEAS."
--COMMERCE NET NEWS SERVICE

"WHO THE HELL IS GENOM?"
--U.S. PRESIDENT DEIRDRE SHAW





VIDEO SAMPLE

CONTROVERSIAL "BOOMERS" SEEN HERE HARD AT WORK ON ONE OF GENOM'S "URBAN RECLAMATION" SITES.

BIG FELLOWS, AREN'T THEY...

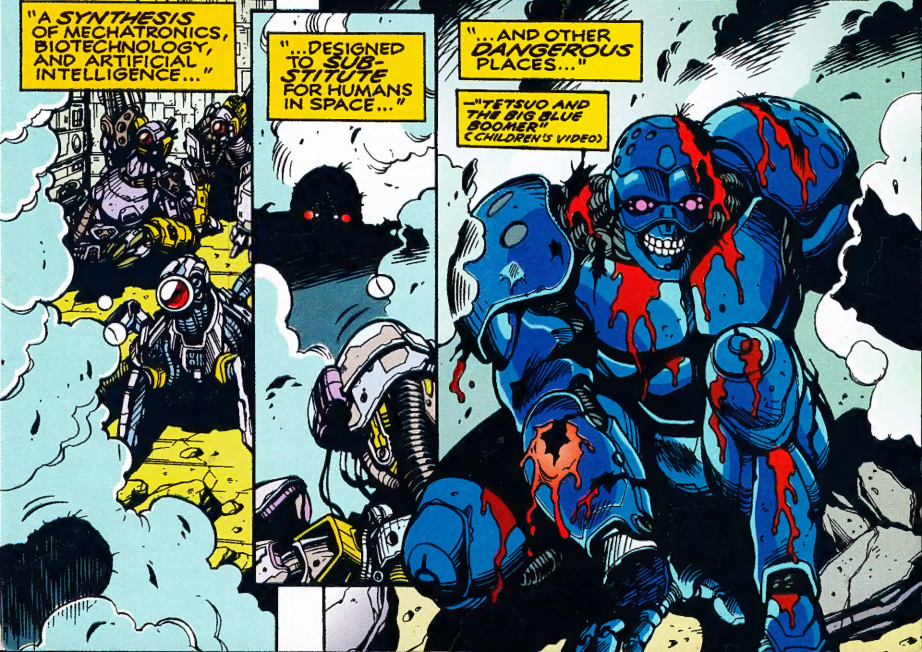
DECLAMATION
山下くさ2
BOOMERS

"A SYNTHESIS OF MECHATRONICS, BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE..."

"...DESIGNED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMANS IN SPACE..."

"...AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES..."

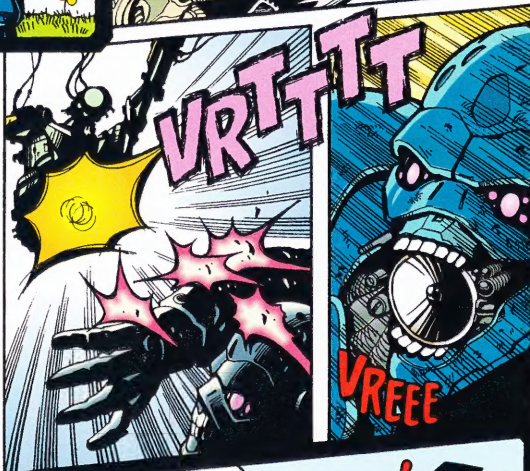
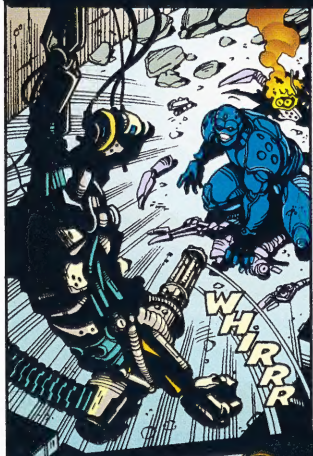
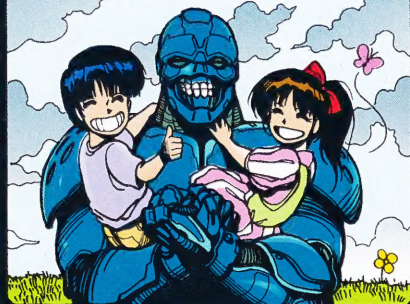
"...TETSUO AND THE BIG BLUE BOOMER!"
[CHILDREN'S VIDEO]



VIDEO SAMPLE

BOOMERS
AND YOU--

--A WINNING
COMBINATION
FOR A *SAFE*
FUTURE!

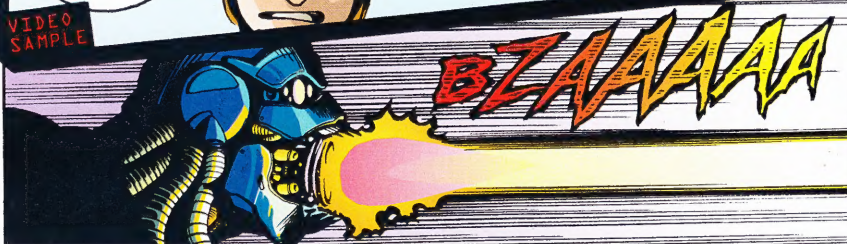


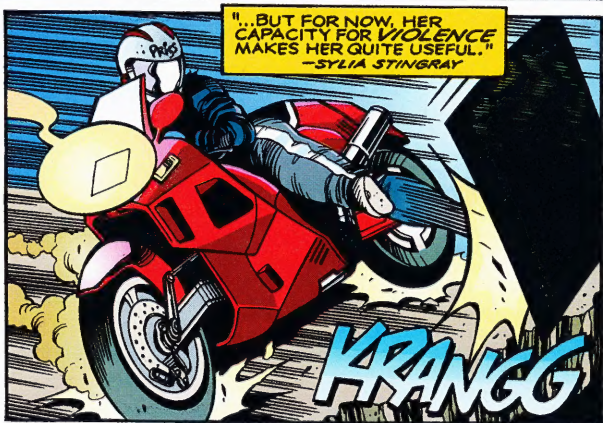
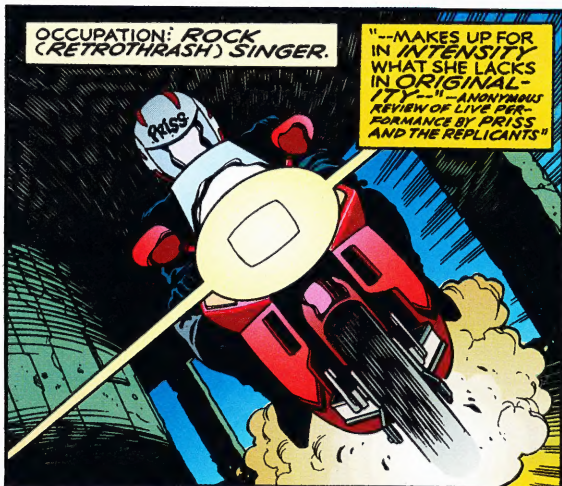
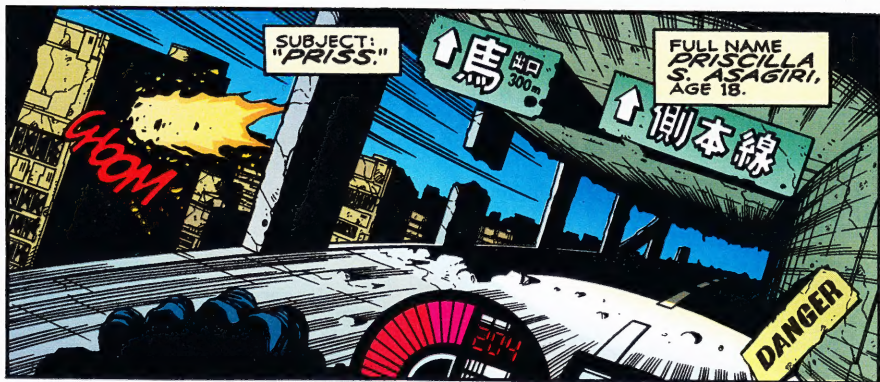
--TWELVE
DEAD, AND
AT LEAST
TWENTY-
FIVE
INJURED.

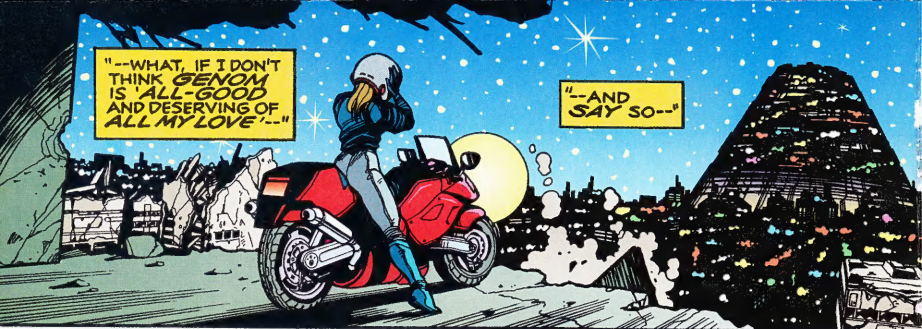
AT THIS TIME
WE CANNOT
CONFIRM RUMORS
OF POSSIBLE
BOOMER
INVOLVEMENT
IN THIS
HEINOUS
CRIME--

RAMDACE

VIDEO
SAMPLE







"--WHAT, IF I DON'T
THINK GENOM
IS 'ALL-GOOD
AND DESERVING OF
ALL MY LOVE'--"

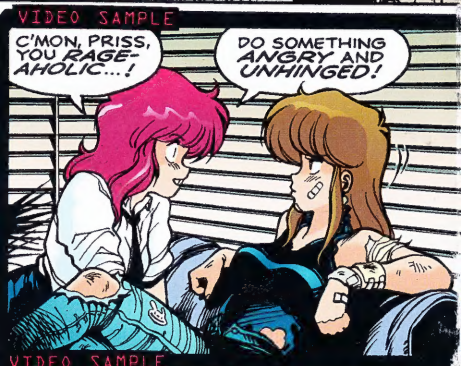
"--AND
SAY SO--"



"--THEN PEOPLE
SAY I'M 'TOO
POLITICAL?'"

"THEY
CAN JUST
GO TO
HELL--"

—PRISS, IN INTERVIEW
WITH WAJLEMAC
MUSIC 'ZINE



VIDEO SAMPLE

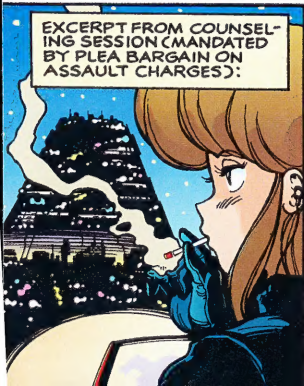
C'MON, PRISS,
YOU RAGE-
AHOLIC...!

DO SOMETHING
ANGRY AND
UNHINGED!

VIDEO SAMPLE

SHOW
US WHAT
A WILD
REBEL
YOU
ARE!

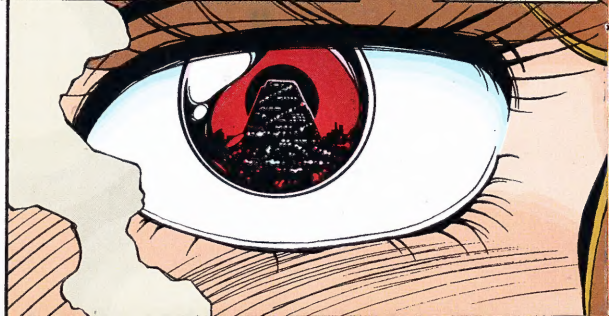
THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT--

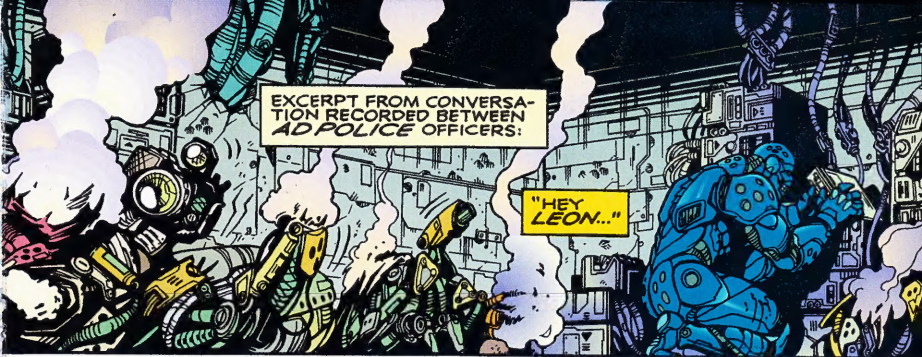


EXCERPT FROM COUNSELING
SESSION (MANDATED
BY PLEA BARGAIN ON
ASSAULT CHARGES):

THERAPIST: "THAT'S QUITE A LOAD
OF UNHEALTHY ANGER YOU'RE
CARRYING THERE, PRISS..."

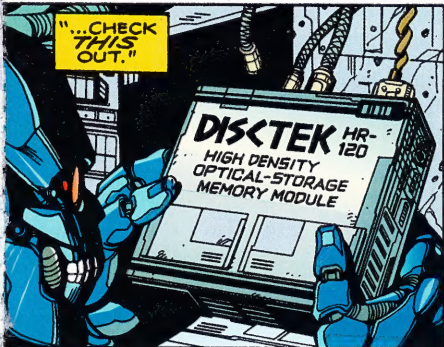
PRISS:
"BLEEP< YOU!"





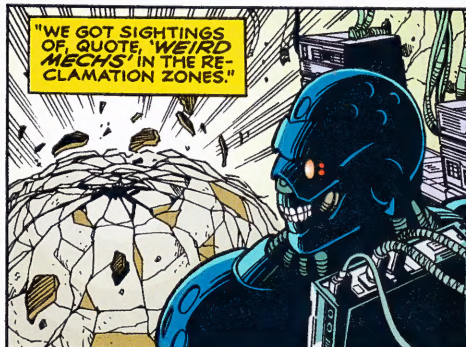
EXCERPT FROM CONVERSATION
RECORDED BETWEEN
AD POLICE OFFICERS:

"HEY
LEON..."



"...CHECK
THIS
OUT."

DISCTEK HR-120
HIGH DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

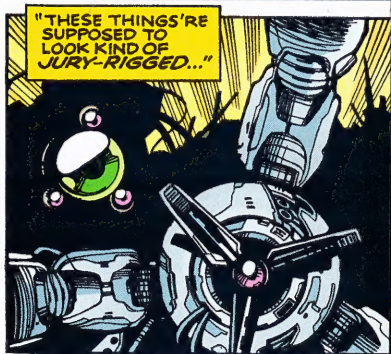


"WE GOT SIGHTINGS
OF, QUOTE, 'WEIRD
MECHS' IN THE RE-
CLAMATION ZONES."

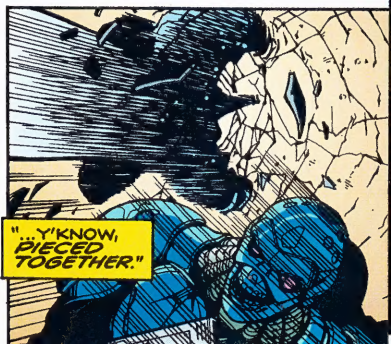


"WHAT, SOME NEW
TYPE OF BOOMER?"

"NAH,
DON'T
THINK
SO..."



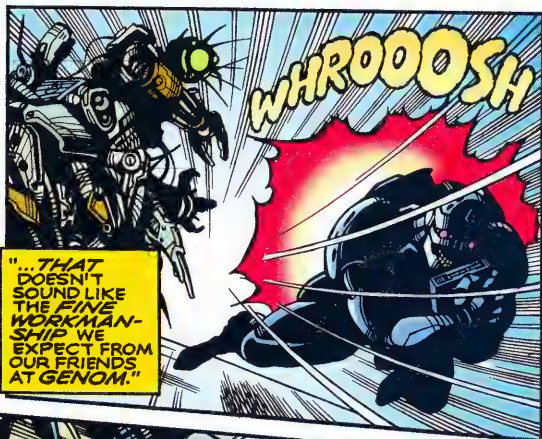
"THESE THINGS'RE
SUPPOSED TO
LOOK KIND OF
JURY-RIGGED..."



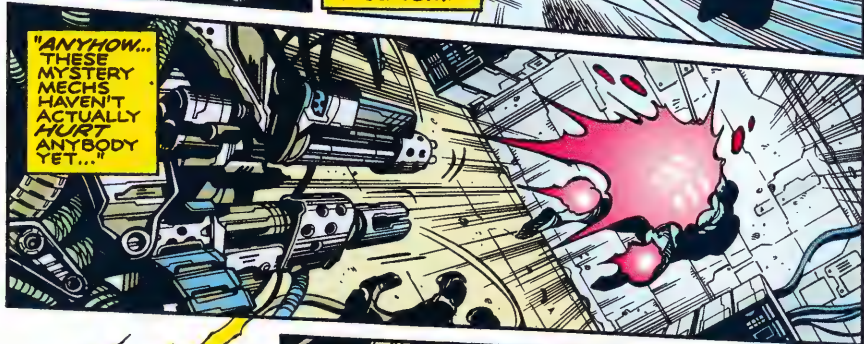
"Y'KNOW,
PIECED
TOGETHER."



"WELL,
NOW..."



"...THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
THE
WORKMAN-
SHIP WE
EXPECT FROM
OUR FRIENDS
AT GENOM."

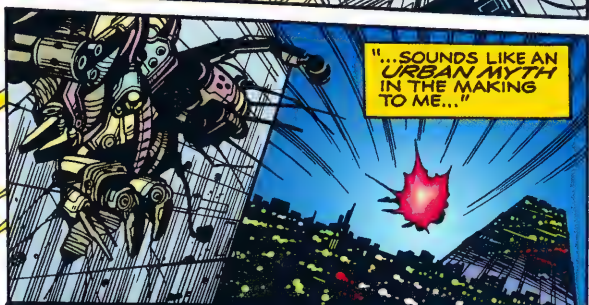


"ANYHOW...
THESE
MYSTERY
MECHS
HAVEN'T
ACTUALLY
HURT
ANYBODY
YET..."



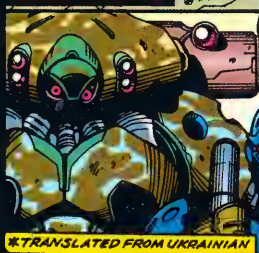
"...THEY'RE JUST
SPOOKING
THE FAIR
CITIZENS A
LITTLE."

"HUH..."



"...SOUNDS LIKE AN
"URBAN MYTH
IN THE MAKING
TO ME..."

VIDEO SAMPLE



AS YOU
CAN SEE,
GENERAL--*

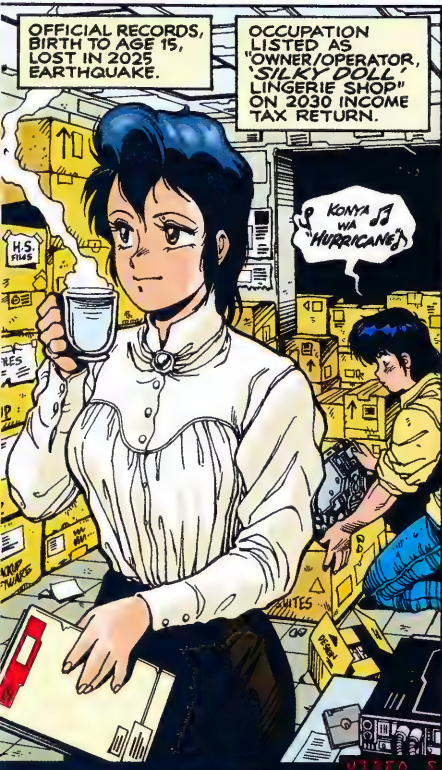
--TODAY'S
COMBAT
BOOMER
WORKS
HARDER
FOR YOU--



*TRANSLATED FROM UKRAINIAN



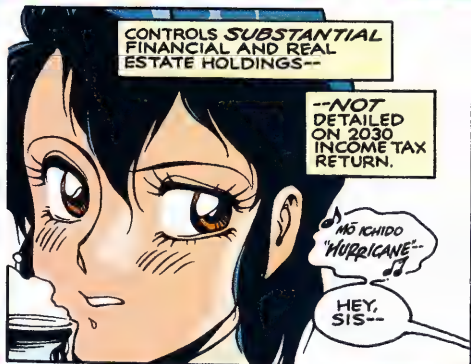
SUBJECT:
SYLIA
STINGRAY,
AGE 21.



OFFICIAL RECORDS,
BIRTH TO AGE 15,
LOST IN 2025
EARTHQUAKE.

OCCUPATION
LISTED AS
'OWNER/OPERATOR,
'SILKY DOLL',
LINGERIE SHOP'
ON 2030 INCOME
TAX RETURN.

KONYA WA
'HURRICANE!'

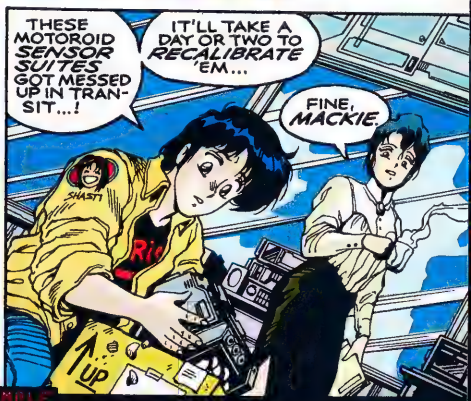


CONTROLS *SUBSTANTIAL*
FINANCIAL AND REAL
ESTATE HOLDINGS--

--NOT
DETAILED
ON 2030
INCOME TAX
RETURN.

MÔ ICHIDO
'HURRICANE'

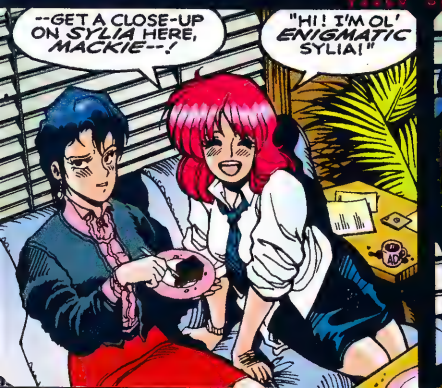
HEY,
SIS--



THESE
MOTOROID
SENSOR
SUITES
GOT MESSED
UP IN TRANSIT...!

IT'LL TAKE A
DAY OR TWO TO
RECALIBRATE
'EM...

FINE,
MACKIE.



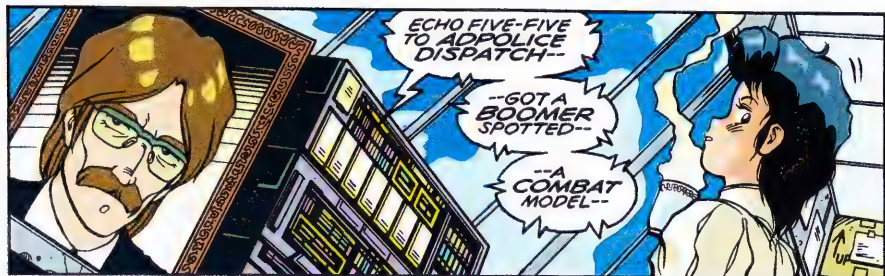
--GET A CLOSE-UP
ON SYLIA HERE,
MACKIE--!

'HI! I'M OL'
'ENIGMATIC
SYLIA!'



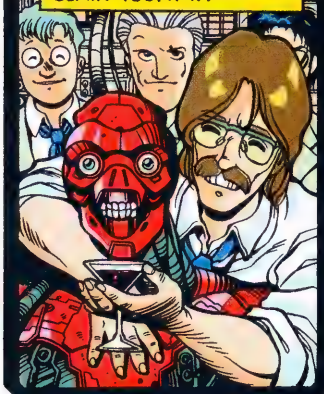
'WHY, I'M A MYSTERY
OF TWO CONUNDRUMS
OF A RIDDLE OF
ANOTHER MYSTERY--'

NENE DEAR,
YOU'RE
GETTING
OUT OF
HAND--



VIDEO SAMPLE

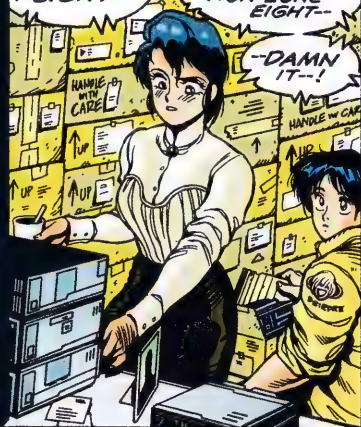
--CREATOR OF SO-CALLED "BOOMER TECHNOLOGY," DR. STINGRAY WAS SLAIN TODAY IN--



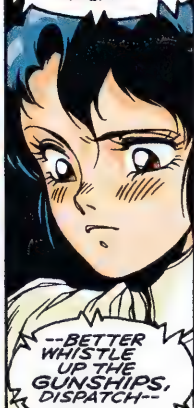
--BOOMER'S IN FLIGHT--

--HEADED OUT OF RECLAMATION ZONE EIGHT--

--DAMN IT--!

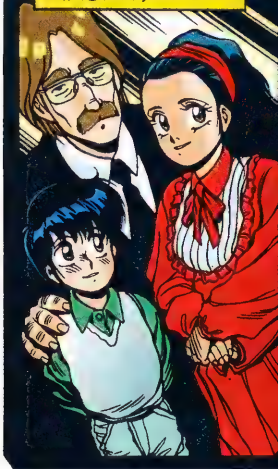


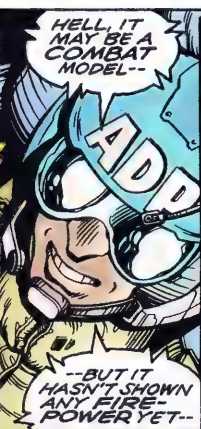
THE BOOMER'S GOING INTO A POPULATED AREA--



VIDEO SAMPLE

--SURVIVED BY DAUGHTER SYLIA, TWELVE, AND SON MACKIE, FIVE--





VIDEO SAMPLE



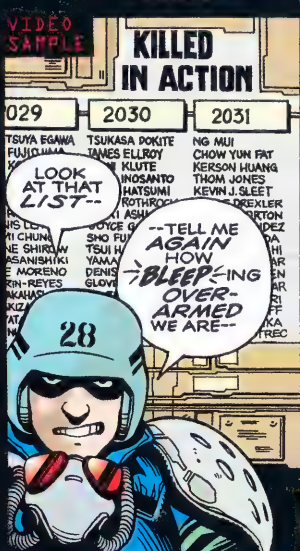
Join the **ADP** Police!

VIDEO SAMPLE

LIKE YOUR POLICE FORCE OVERBEARING, OVERBUDGETED AND OVERARMED?



VIDEO SAMPLE

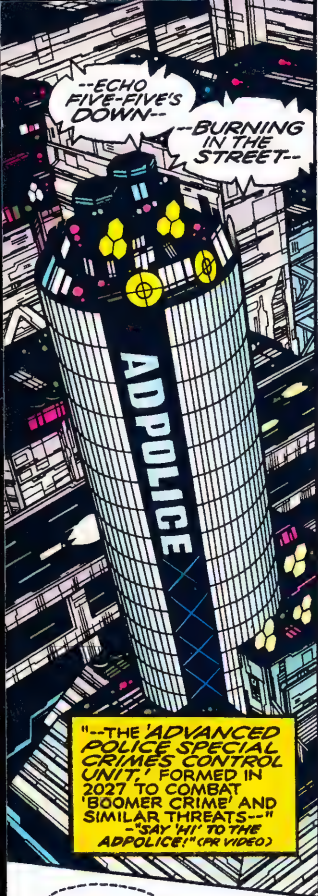


KILLED IN ACTION

029 2030 2031

TSUKASA EGAWA	TSUKASA DOKITE	NG MUJI
FUJIKAWA	JAMES ELLROY	CHOW YUN FAT
K	KLUTE	KERSON HUANG
INOSANTO	THOM JONES	
HATSUMI	KEVIN J. SLEET	
ROTHRO	DREXLER	
ASH	DEKTON	
VOYE	INDEZ	
SHO FU	DA	
TSUI H	HI	
YAMA	EN	
DENIS	AR	
GLOV	FT	
KALAH	KA	
KRIZ	TREC	

EDITORIAL



--ECHO
FIVE-FIVE'S
DOWN--

--BURNING
IN THE
STREET--

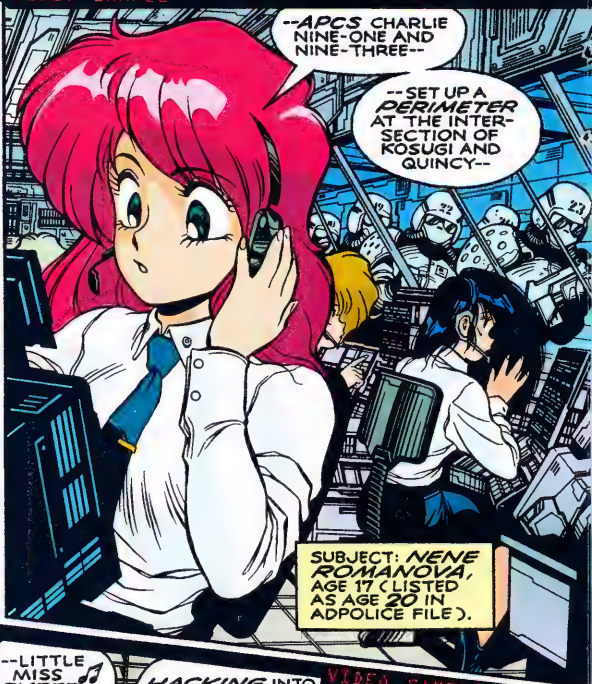
"--THE 'ADVANCED
POLICE SPECIAL
CRIMES CONTROL
UNIT,' FORMED IN
2027 TO COMBAT
'BOOMER CRIME' AND
SIMILAR THREATS--"
"SAY 'HI' TO THE
ADPOLICE!" (PR VIDEO)



--TO TAC
SQUADS, FROM
GUNSHIP PILOTS
TO DISPATCHERS--

--WE'RE
ALL PULLING
TOGETHER
FOR YOUR
SAFETY!

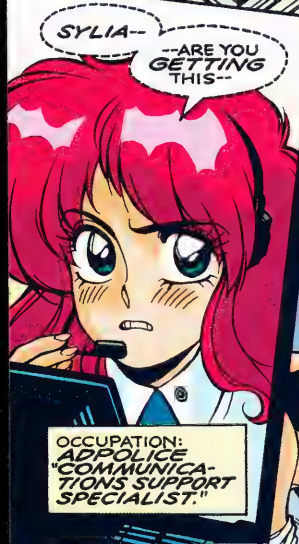
VIDEO SAMPLE



--APCS CHARLIE
NINE-ONE AND
NINE-THREE--

--SET UP A
PERIMETER
AT THE INTER-
SECTION OF
KOSUGI AND
QUINCY--

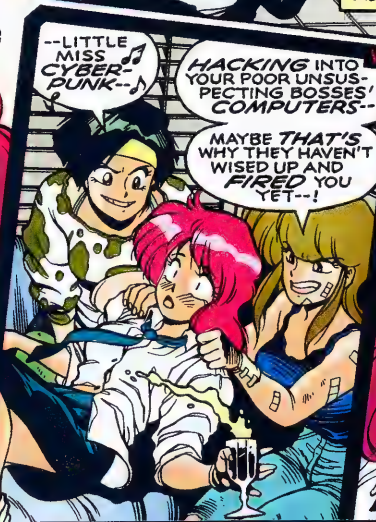
SUBJECT: NENE
ROMANOVA,
AGE 17 (LISTED
AS AGE 20 IN
ADPOLICE FILE).



SYLIA--

--ARE YOU
GETTING
THIS--

OCCUPATION:
ADPOLICE
"COMMUNICA-
TIONS SUPPORT
SPECIALIST."



--LITTLE
MISS
CYBER-
PUNK--

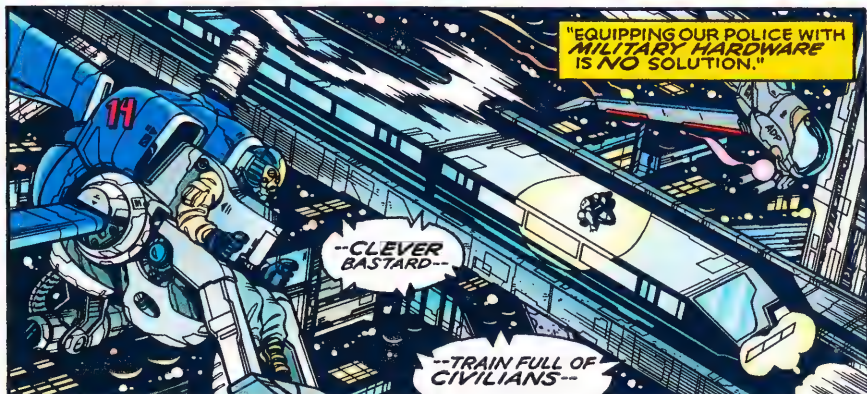
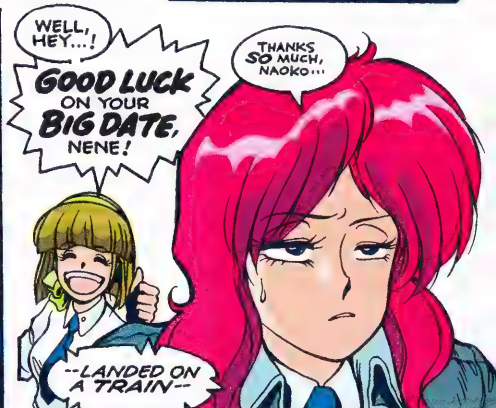
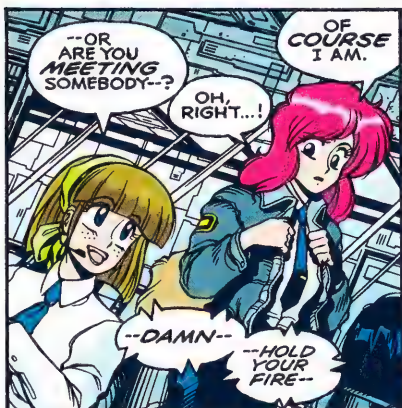
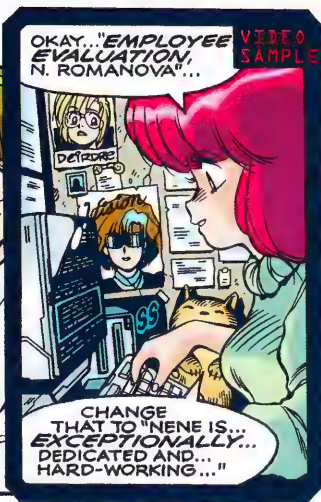
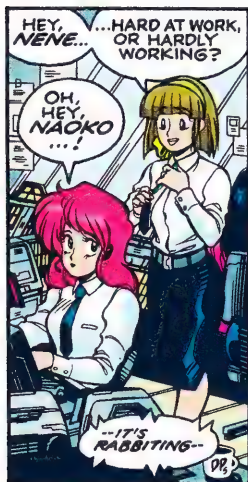
HACKING INTO
YOUR POOR UNSUS-
PECTING BOSSES'
COMPUTERS--!

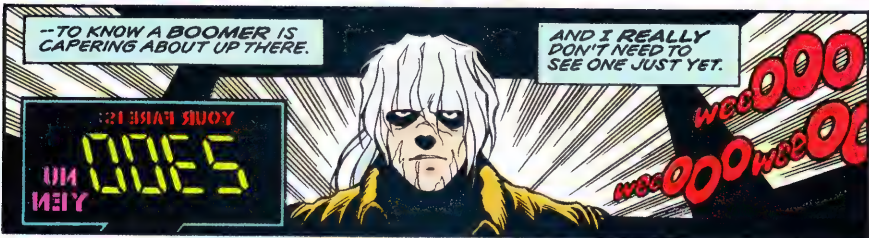
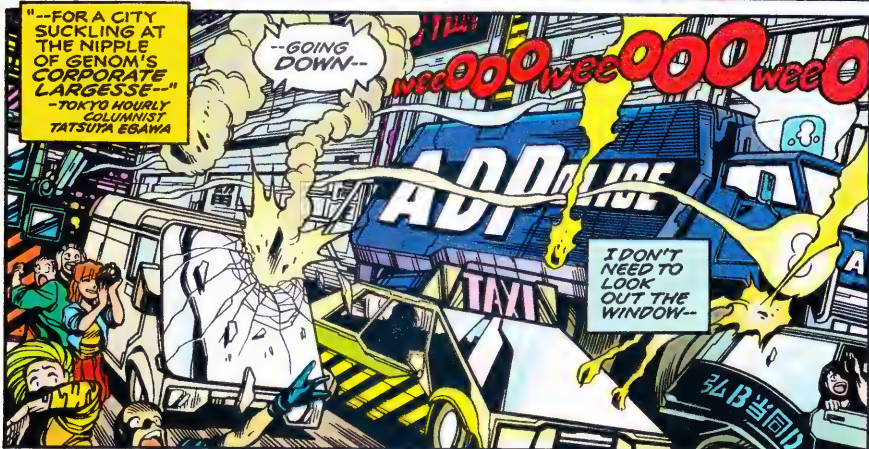
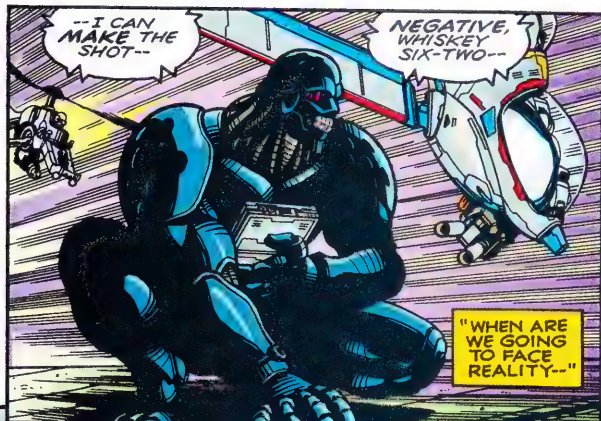
MAYBE THAT'S
WHY THEY HAVEN'T
WISED UP AND
FIRED YOU
YET--!

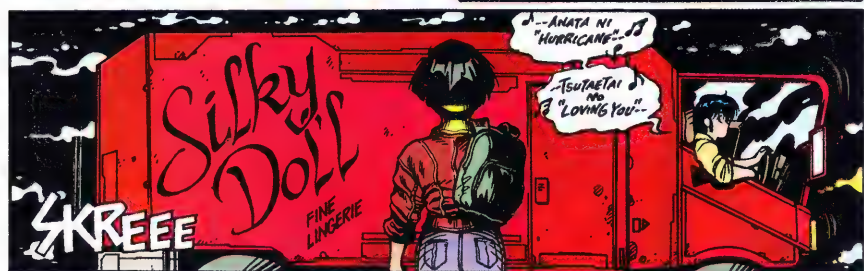
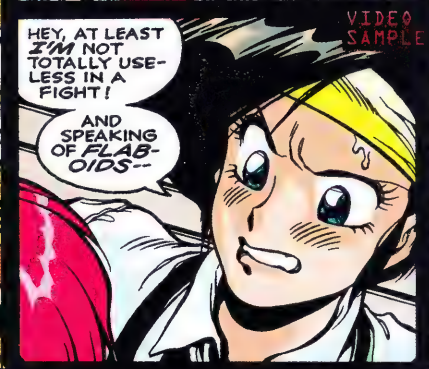
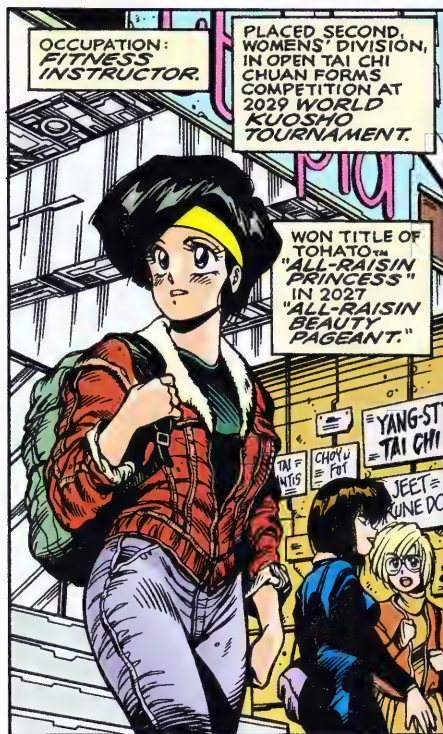
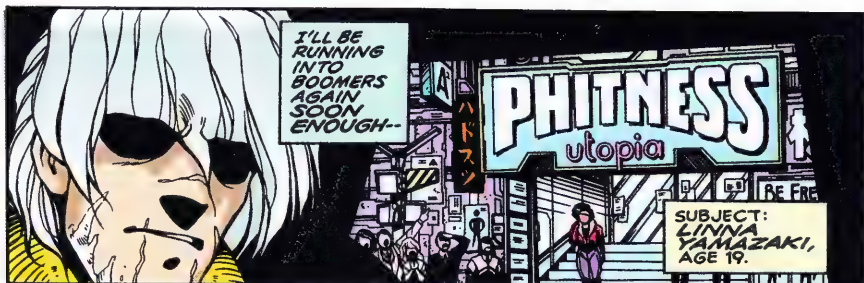
VIDEO SAMPLE

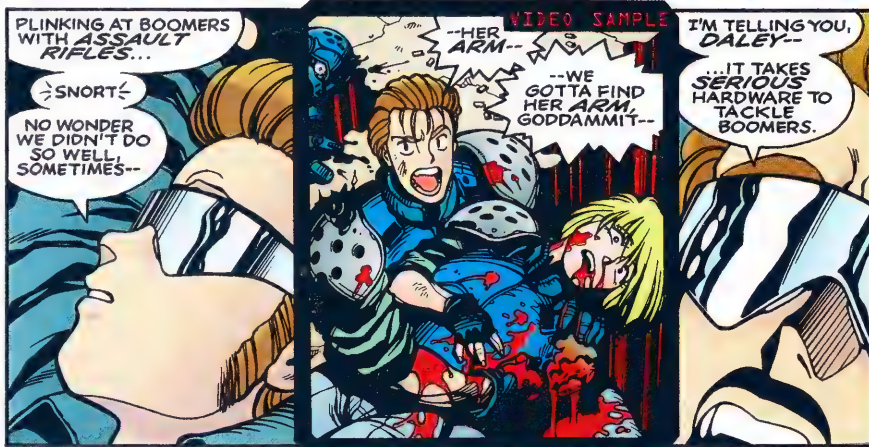
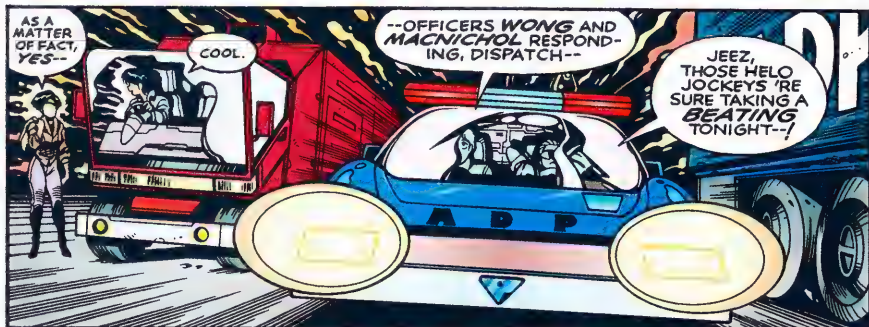
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE--

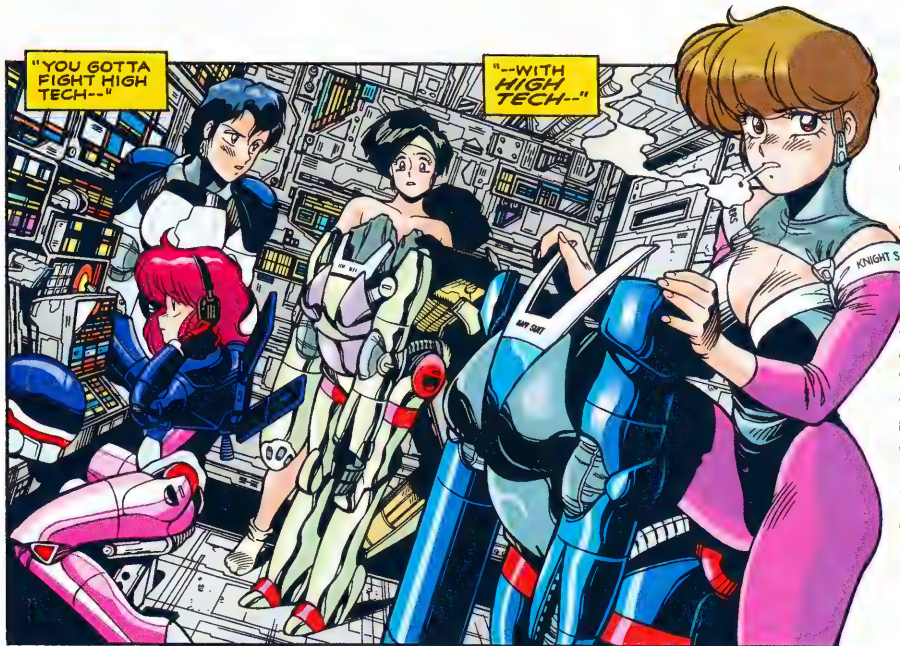








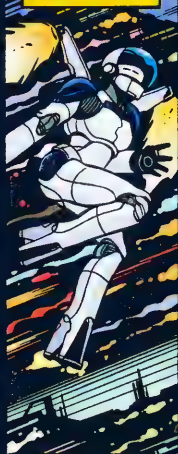




"YOU GOTTA
FIGHT HIGH
TECH--"

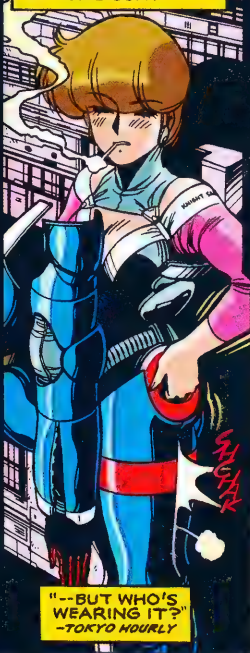
"--WITH
HIGH
TECH--"

VIDEO SAMPLE
--VIDEOTAPED
IN FLIGHT
OVER THE
NEW
ROPPONGI
DISTRICT--

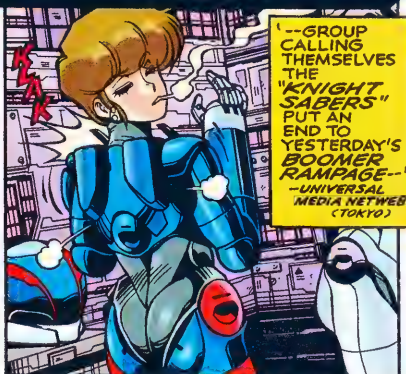
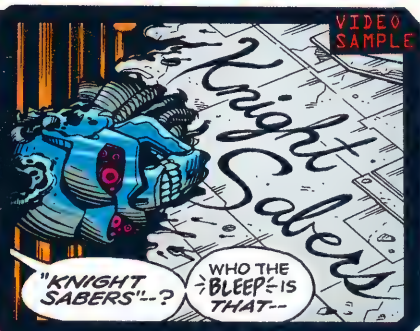


--MATCHES
NO KNOWN
TYPE OF
BOOMER
OR--

"--CLEARLY
POWERED ARMOR
OF SOME SORT--"



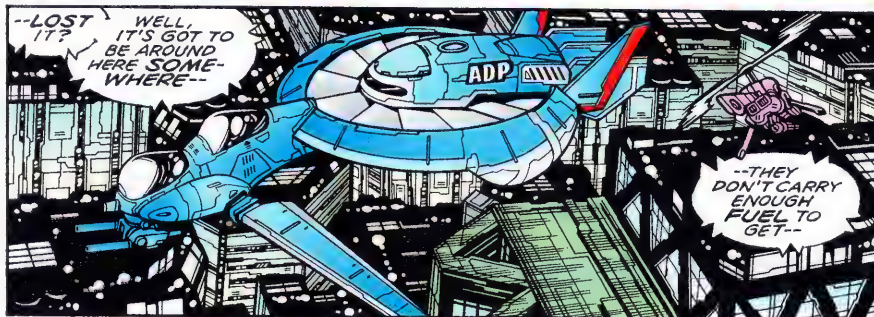
"--BUT WHO'S
WEARING IT?"
--TOKYO HOURLY

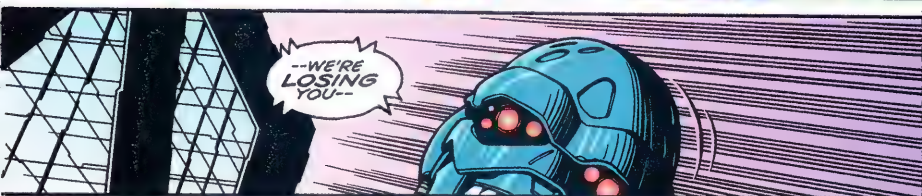
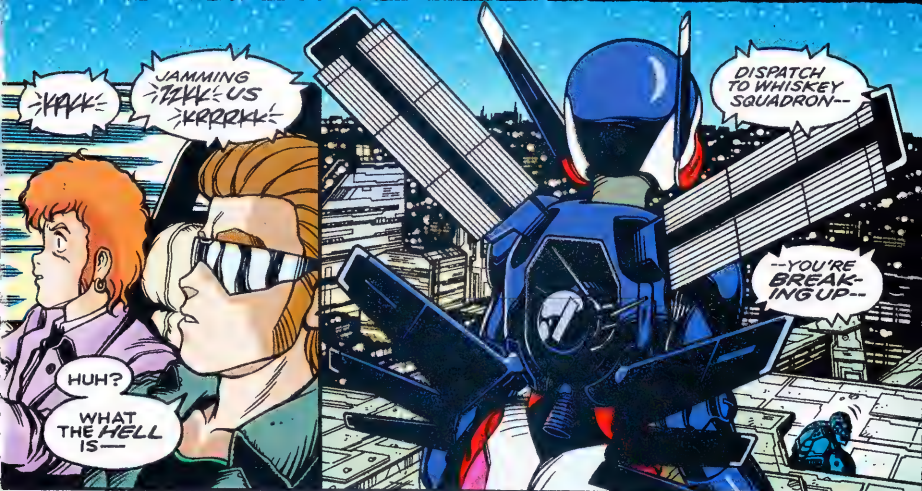


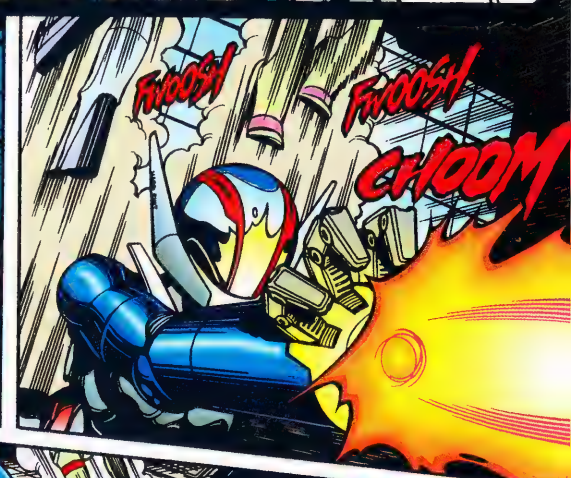
--GROUP
CALLING
THEMSELVES
THE
"KNIGHT
SABERS"
PUT AN
END TO
YESTERDAY'S
BOOMER
RAMPAGE--
--UNIVERSAL
MEDIA NETWEB
(TOKYO)

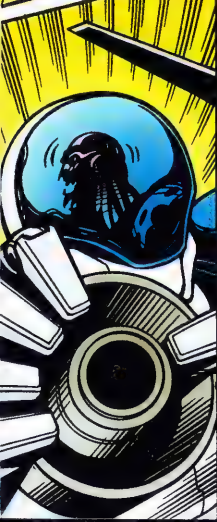
"HIGH-TECH
VIGILANTES:
A LOOK AT MEGA-
TOKYO'S SHADOWY
'KNIGHT SABERS'
—PACIFICA NEWSNET

"RUMORS OF
'KNIGHT
SABERS' IN-
VOLVEMENT IN
'CORPORATE
MERCENARY'
ACTIVITY...
MORE TONIGHT
AT ELEVEN."
—UNIVERSAL MEDIA
NETWEB (TOKYO)









--ON THE "KNIGHT SABERS" CHAIRMAN QUINCY--

IS THEIR ARMOR A GENOM INVENTION, OR--

--REPORTEDLY DESTROYED COMBAT BOOMERS OF GENOM MANUFACTURE--?

NO COMMENT.

VIDEO SAMPLE

WHUNG

SH-CHAK

VIDEO SAMPLE

C'MON ♪ --BEG ME-- ♪

--BEG FOR YOUR SYNTHETIC EXCUSE FOR A LIFE-- ♪

--BEFORE I END IT-- ♪

CHOOM

--THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"? THEY'RE
CRUCIAL
REALM!!

THE WAY
THEY FIGHT
SICKENING
VIOLENCE
WITH EVEN MORE
SICKENING
VIOLENCE--

--YOU
GOTTA
LOVE
IT--

KNOW
WHAT I LIKE
ABOUT THESE
"KNIGHT
SABERS,"
DALEY?

THEY'VE
GOT GOOD
HAND-
WRITING.

*Knight
Sabers*

YOU JUST
DON'T SEE
THAT TOO
OFTEN NOW-
ADAYS...

THEY'RE NOT
TOO SHABBY AT
SHREDDING
BOOMERS,
EITHER...

HEY,
MACNICHOL--

--WE
FOUND
SOME
THING--!

LOOK
AT
THIS!

IS A HIGH-CAPACITY
MEMORY MODULE.

THIS MODEL
GETS USED AS A
REMOVABLE
STORAGE
DEVICE FOR
BACKUP DATA,
USUALLY...

42

HUH...

WELL,
BETTER
CALL THE
TECHS.

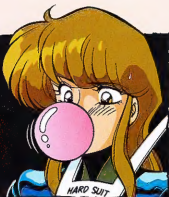
DISC TEK
HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

LOOKS
LIKE A NEW
PUZZLE
FOR THEM
TO PLAY
WITH...

TO BE
CONTINUED.

word balloons

c/o Dark Horse Comics 10956 S.E. Main St., Milwaukie, Or. 97222



Bubble, bubble, Boomers cause trouble! Welcome to the world of **Bubblegum Crisis**! The comic you've just read is based on the Japanese animation "anime" series of the same name. Eight volumes have been released by AnimEigo in the US, and it's rapidly gaining popularity even as it did in its own native country.

With character designs by popular designer Kenichi Sonoda (*Riding Bean*, *Gall Force*), a driving rock soundtrack, and excellent quality of animation, it was only a matter of time before **Bubblegum Crisis** became a comic. Many comics, such as Masamune Shirow's **Appleseed** and **Black Magic** have inspired animation. Some animation series have gone full-circle, becoming comics. While there have been some brief stories of the Knight Sabers published in Japan, this is the first full-length series published anywhere.

Studio Proteus has made a name for itself not only publishing translated manga, but adapting anime characters to comics. Previous to

Bubblegum Crisis, Proteus produced four black-and-white series of the adventures of The Dirty Pair. For those interested, check the recent **The Dirty Pair: Sim Hell** from Dark Horse.

Crisis is plotted, pencilled, and inked by American manga-style artist Adam Warren. He's ably assisted by Robert DeJesus on inking and cover colors. BGC's covers are done animation cel-style, with Robert painting the colors onto acetate copies of the line art. Colors are also Joe Rosas' forte, who puzzled over an animation-style palette with Adam hanging over his shoulder. Lettering is provided by Tomoko Saito, whose work can be seen on many of Studio Proteus' other manga books.

In keeping with Dark Horse's celebration of Manga Month, we're having a special contest for **Bubblegum Crisis** fans. American manga maniacs, otaku, and anime addicts, now's your chance to show your stuff! It's time to play...

SPOT THE ANIME/MANGA CHARACTER!

In order to refine his manga style, Adam's looked at a lot of stuff, and you can see it popping up in issue one. Why look, isn't that Bean Bandit, from the video **Riding Bean**? Hey, could that be Yuri from **The Dirty Pair**? Hmm...

Send us your list of all characters 'guest starring' in this first issue and if you're right, you may receive a **Bubblegum Crisis** #1 video! All entries must be received by April 30, 1994. In the event of a tie (pretty likely, too) we will pick a winner in a random drawing from correct entries.

Contest aside, we're also looking for your comments! Did we do good? Did the bubble explode in our face? Let us know what you think!

Knight Sabers *Sanjo!*

—John Weeks

Bubblegum C R I S I S

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ANIMATION... AND INSPIRED
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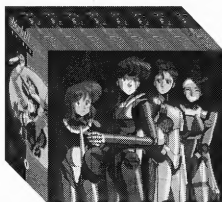
The GENOM Corporation is
about to take over the world
using its android
"Boomers," and only one
force stands in their
way ---

The Knight Sabers,
four female
mercenaries in
hi-tech
"hardsuits."

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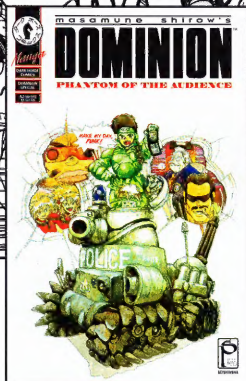
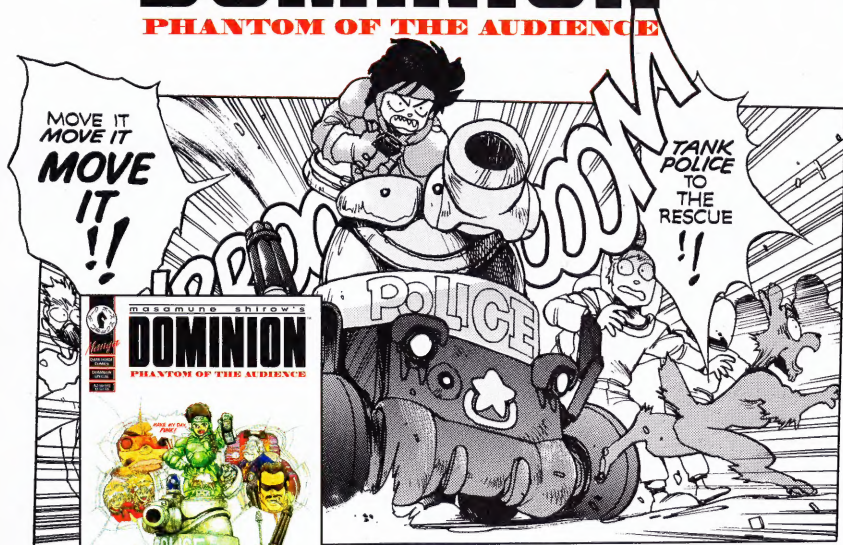
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THE POLICE ARE MORE
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masamune shirow's

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PHANTOM OF THE AUDIENCE



It's kinda' like NYPD
BLACK and **BLUE**!

Written and illustrated by Masamune Shirow
Translated by Fred Schodt and Toren Smith
Painted cover by Masamune Shirow

MARCH



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